

NOMINEE REQUIRING SENATE CONFIRMATION EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT BACKGROUND SUMMARY

NOMINEE: Melissa Thompson

POSITION: Licensed Veterinarian

REPLACING: Christina Bertch-Mumaw

APPOINTING GOVERNOR: Douglas A. Ducey

DATE OF APPOINTMENT: August 25, 2021

TERM ENDS: January 15, 2024

FUNCTION OF THE ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD (BOARD):

The Board is responsible for protecting the public from unlawful, incompetent, unqualified, impaired or unprofessional practitioners of veterinary medicine through licensure and regulation of the profession in Arizona, including veterinary and crematory licensure, technician certification, veterinary practitioner regulation and suspected violation investigation ([A.R.S. §32-2207](#)).

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR POSITION:

The Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. Each member of the Board serves a term of four years, with no one member serving more than two full terms. Five members must be licensed veterinarians, no more than three of which may be graduates from the same veterinary college, who have: 1) an established practice located in Arizona or are employed by an Arizona university or political subdivision; and 2) resided and practiced in Arizona for five years immediately preceding appointment. Three members may not be veterinarians. Two non-veterinarian members must be public members and one non-veterinarian member must represent the livestock industry. One member must be a certified veterinary technician (CVT) who: 1) has been certified for at least five years; 2) is currently employed in Arizona as a CVT; and 3) has practiced and resided in Arizona for at least five years prior to appointment. Individuals convicted of a violation of veterinary law, with exceptions for certain administrative violations, are ineligible for appointment ([A.R.S. § 32-2202](#)).

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND TERM EXPIRATIONS:

Name	Position	Term Expiration
Nicole J. Frost	CVT	January 2020
Jim Loughhead	Livestock Industry Representative	January 2022
Jane Solomon	Public Member	January 2022
Darren Wright	Licensed Veterinarian	January 2022
J. Greg Byrne	Licensed Veterinarian	January 2023
Jessica Creager	Public Member	January 2023
<i>Melissa Thompson*</i>	<i>Licensed Veterinarian</i>	<i>January 2024</i>
<i>Craig Nausley*</i>	<i>Licensed Veterinarian</i>	<i>January 2024</i>
Robyn Jaynes	Licensed Veterinarian	January 2025

**Pending Confirmation*

SALARY OR OTHER COMPENSATION:

Each Board member receives compensation of up to \$100 for each day engaged in the service of the Board ([A.R.S. § 32-2202](#)).

BUDGET AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTEs):

The Board has an FY 2023 estimated operating budget of \$601,800 and six FTEs ([JLBC](#)).

NOMINEE'S QUALIFICATIONS:**Education:**

University of Florida	M.A., Shelter Medicine	2022
Western University of Health Sciences	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	2008
Arizona State University	B.S., Life Sciences	2000

Employment:

Arizona Human Society	V.P. of Medical Operations	2018 – Present
Second Chance Animal Trauma Hospital	Lead Veterinarian	2016 – 2018
	Associate Veterinarian	2011 – 2016
Banfield-Scottsdale	Chief of Staff	2016 – 2016
	Associate Veterinarian	2009 – 2016
Banfield-Ontario	Associate Veterinarian	2009 – 2009
Banfield-Fontana	Associate Veterinarian	2008 – 2009
Western University of Health Sciences	Adjunct Professor	2008 – 2009
	Associate Veterinarian	2008 – 2009
Seattle Genetics	Research Associate	2002 – 2004
Mayo Clinic	Research Technologist/ Technician	1999 – 2002

Other Qualifications:

Arizona Veterinary License
 Options for Animals – College of Animal Chiropractic IVCA Certification
 Canine Rehabilitation Institute CCRT Certification
 AO North America Principles in Small Animal Fracture Management
 Arizona Veterinary Medical Association Member
 American Veterinary Medical Association Member
 Association of Shelter Veterinarians Member
 Association of Animal Welfare Advancement Member
 Seven Publications

Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee
 March 7, 2022